

Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

The staff at Käthe Wolfhart, for demonstrating the true meaning of customer service all year long.

I can always count on friendly and courteous service when entering this store. Thank you for doing what's necessary to make my shopping experience a joy.

Vanessa Newton of the Stuttgart CPOC office, for her friendly, customer-centered approach. I never expected completing personnel paperwork to be "pleasurable," but Ms. Newton made the process pain-free and occasionally even enjoyable. Thanks!

The personnel behind the counter of the Patch Community Mail Room. During this crazy time of year when tempers are shorter than normal and we tend to have too much on our minds, it's comforting to know that I can be greeted with a smile and a helping hand with my packages. You are appreciated!

The staff of the Patch Army Post Office for keeping their cool under the enormous pressure they receive daily. You are doing a great job with customer service. Keep up the good work!

Thorns to:

Anyone looking for a "thorn" in the holiday edition of *The Citizen*. We'll have plenty of opportunities to vent our frustrations in the coming year – for this issue, though, let's just stop and enjoy the "roses."

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

THE CITIZEN

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris
6th Area Support Group Commander

Public Affairs Officer
Jennifer Sanders
pao@6asg.army.mil

Editor
Hugh C. McBride
citizen@6asg.army.mil

Reporters
Melanie Casey
caseym@6asg.army.mil
Mildred Green
greenm@6asg.army.mil

Terri Alejandro
alejandrot@6asg.army.mil

Stuttgart Essentials
Christie Lawler
lawlerc@6asg.army.mil

Contact Information

Office Location: Building 3307-W, Kelley Barracks
U.S. Army Address: Unit 30401, APO AE 09107
German Address: Gebäude 3307-W, Kelley Barracks,
Plieningerstrasse 289, 70567 Stuttgart
Telephone: 421-2046/civ. 0711-729-2046
Fax: 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570

Advertising Information

For advertising information call 349-8443/civ. 06155-601443. For classifieds call 349-8447/civ. 06155-601447.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of *The Citizen* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 6th Area Support Group public affairs officer. Private organizations noted in this publication are not part of the Dept. of Defense.

The Citizen is printed by the Stars and Stripes under written agreement. The European Stars and Stripes is responsible for commercial advertising.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army or the European Stars and Stripes.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Citizen is an offset press publication printed in 6,500 copies every two weeks.

www.stuttgart.army.mil

IN THE MAIL

Consider commitment when purchasing 'Christmas pets'

Animals are not toys – they are living creatures who feel joy and pain, happiness and sadness, just like people do. And they are completely helpless and at the mercy of their human families.

Every year at Christmas, innocent, trusting animals find themselves under Christmas trees.

A sweet little cat, trying to play with the tree decorations or jumping into rustling gift paper; a puppy full of joy; a hamster, bird or guinea pig sitting quietly in a brand-new, clean cage – their hearts are anxious and there is so much hope and faith in their eyes as they try to please their new human family.

The animals hope that they have found a home with warmth, love, understanding and compassion – a home forever. They are so grateful: What a Christmas joy!

The whole family is excited to have this wonderful creature to love, feed and play with. There is nothing but happiness. Too many times, though, this lasts only until the Christmas season is over.

Like many Christmas surprises, before long these animals are no longer wanted. The animal can sense the rejection and is afraid of what will happen.

Maybe next week, or in a month or two, the newness and excitement has worn off completely, and all that is left is the burden of caring for this "troublesome" animal.

The sweet cat still wants to play, eat and drink, and needs a clean litter box. The lively dog must not only be played with, fed and loved, but also has to be taken outside several times a day and

on regular long walks.

The hamster, bird and guinea pig also need care and clean cages that must be scrubbed top to bottom every week. The children soon lose interest.

The fact is, children can't be expected to fully care for a companion animal. Parents must help!

You think to yourself: *Yuck, who wants to walk the dog in this ugly winter weather? Who wants to scrub cages and clean litter boxes? This is too much, and something I haven't bargained for – how could I have been expected to consider all this during the hectic holiday season?*

I didn't know the animal would need so much of my time and understanding and that it would crave so much attention. And it will cost so much money for food, veterinarian bills – and that ticket back to the States.

I had no idea how much work this would be – I was just too busy preparing for Christmas.

After all, all I really wanted was a neat little present for the kids, a toy that runs without a battery.

Animals are not toys – they are living creatures who feel joy and pain, happiness and sadness, just like people do. And they are completely helpless and at the mercy of their human families.

Do you feel a touch of guilt now? Is your conscience telling you something about responsibility?

Finding "replacement" homes for unwanted pets is difficult, while abandoning the animals sentences them to lives of misery, pain, fear, hunger and injury.

All pros and cons must be considered before taking an animal into one's home. If this is not done, the sad story of love followed by neglect will continue, turning the animal's life into a nightmare.

Merry Christmas to all.

Sigrid Ruckaberle
Stuttgart

Volunteers ensure 'Smokeout' success

With each event I plan in the Stuttgart community, I am amazed at the enthusiastic support of the volunteers who make these events possible.

I'd like to extend a special "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make this year's Great American Smokeout a success:

- Monica Anctil
- Leslie Franklin
- Maurice Geeter
- Billy Grant
- Janice Johnson
- Eric Madara
- Daniel Marks
- Travis Millner
- Paul Moran
- Joseph Rainey
- Melissa Sims
- Joy Staudenmaier
- Jeanie Uludag

Without your hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to our community, this event would be impossible.

Thank you all – you are a credit to our community!

Michelle Saylor
6th ASG Health Promotion Coordinator



Community members thanked for their compassion, support

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Stuttgart community for your overwhelming support in the aftermath of my husband's death.

The amount of support this community has provided has allowed me the time to mourn the loss of my husband, Corey D. Jackson.

I would like to thank all the organizations, businesses, families and individuals that helped me get through this trying time.

To see things being

taken care of for me without my having to say a word just overwhelmed me.

I knew Corey meant so much to a lot of people, but it still amazes me to actually witness how well known and loved he really was. Corey touched many people during and after his life!

The amount of support this entire community provided was breathtaking; therefore, I sincerely thank you all.

Staff Sgt.
Shawnita L. Jackson
Stuttgart



This is the final edition of *The Citizen* this year.

We will return Jan. 13, 2004.

On behalf of the 6th ASG Public Affairs Office,
we wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season!

